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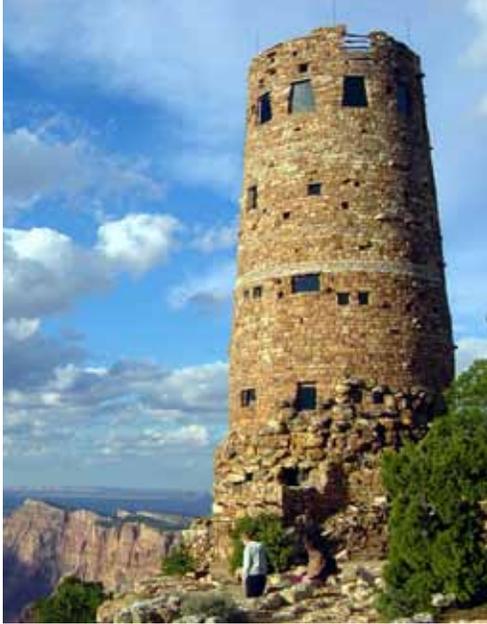
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Navigating *Trip Planner*

This document uses links to ease navigation. A box around the word or website indicates a website or link.

Trip Planner

Welcome to Grand Canyon



Where is it?

Grand Canyon is in the northwest corner of Arizona, close to the borders of Utah and Nevada. The Colorado River, which flows through the canyon, drains water from seven states, but the feature we know as Grand Canyon is entirely in Arizona.

GPS Coordinates

North Rim Visitor Center
36°11'51"N 112°03'09"W

South Rim Visitor Center
36°03'32"N 112°06'33"W

Desertview Watchtower
36° 2' 38" N 111° 49' 33"W



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Located entirely in northern Arizona, the park encompasses 277 miles of the Colorado River and adjacent uplands. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, Grand Canyon is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers to visitors on the rim. Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site.

Grand Canyon National Park

Post Office Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Phone
(928) 638-7888

Email

[Visit the park website](#)

[Explore the park's Twitter, Flickr, or Youtube](#)

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Park Passes

Admission to the park is \$25 per private vehicle; \$12 per pedestrian or cyclist. The pass can be used for seven days and includes both rims. Single vehicle park passes may be purchased outside the park's south entrance in Tusayan, Arizona at:

Grand Hotel
Grand Canyon Squire Inn
Canyon Plaza Resort
Red Feather Lodge
RP Stage Stop
Xanterra Trading Post
Imax—National Park Service Desk
Grand Canyon Flight—at the Grand Canyon Airport

An \$80 Annual Pass provides entrance into all national parks and federal recreational lands for one year.

U.S. citizens 62 or older can obtain a lifetime Senior Pass for \$10 allowing free entrance to all national parks.

U.S. citizens who are permanently disabled are eligible for a free Access Pass.

Fees collected support projects in the park. [Click here for more information about passes.](#)



The Guide

For park ranger programs, services, hours of operation and other current information, see Grand Canyon National Park's seasonal newspaper *The Guide*. The park publishes an edition for both the North and South Rims.

Accessibility

For information about accessibility in Grand Canyon National Park please see *Accessibility Guide*.

Pets

Pets are allowed inside the park but must be leashed at all times and are not allowed below the rim. Persons wishing to take service animals below the rim must check in at the Backcountry Information Center. For more information [click here](#).

The Park is Open

The South Rim is open all year, unlike the North Rim which closes November or early December due to snow and re-opens in mid-May. Park entrances remain open 24 hours a day. Although the park never closes, hours for visitor centers and businesses vary seasonally.



Getting to Grand Canyon



Private Vehicle

South Rim

From the south—exit I-40 at Williams, Arizona, and proceed north on Arizona Hwy 64 or exit on U.S. 180 in Flagstaff and follow it to the intersection with Hwy 64.

From the north—take U.S. Hwy 89 or 160 to Hwy 64 in Cameron, Arizona. Proceed west on 64 to the East Entrance of the park.

North Rim

Take Hwy 89A to Jacob Lake, Arizona, and turn south onto Arizona Hwy 67 to the North Entrance of the park.

Airline

Serves Phoenix, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Limited flights go to Flagstaff, Arizona. Rental cars are available at any of these airports to continue to either rim in Grand Canyon National Park. Shuttle service is available from the Phoenix area to the South Rim via Flagstaff (see center column).

Grand Canyon Airlines

Flies from Boulder City, Nevada, near Las Vegas, to the Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan, Arizona. Shuttle or taxi service is available from the airport to the South Rim. No rental cars are available at Grand Canyon Airport.

(866) 235-9422

www.grandcanyonairlines.com

Train

Amtrak

Stops at Williams and Flagstaff, Arizona. Shuttle service runs from Flagstaff to the South Rim (see center column).

www.amtrak.com

Grand Canyon Railway

Runs a daily excursion train from Williams, Arizona, to the South Rim. The train leaves Williams at approximately 10:00 a.m. and arrives at the canyon by noon. It leaves the canyon at 3:30 p.m. and arrives back at Williams about 5:00 p.m.

(800) THE-TRAIN

www.thetrain.com

Bus

Greyhound Bus Lines

Offers service from Flagstaff and Williams to points nationwide.

(800) 231-2222

www.greyhound.com

Shuttle Service

Arizona Shuttle

Service between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon twice daily, also serving Phoenix and Tucson and other locations in Arizona.

(877) 226-8060 or (928) 226-8060

www.arizonashuttle.com

Grand Canyon Shuttle Service

Service between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon, as well as between the North and South rims.

(888) 215-3105

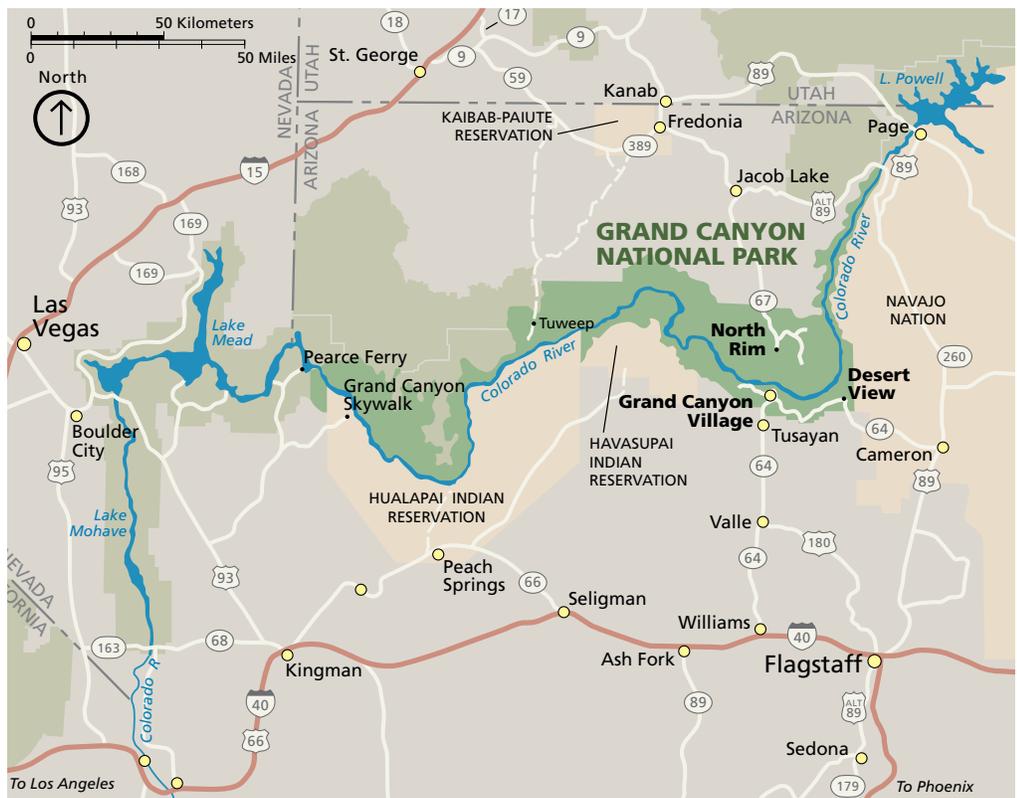
www.grandcanyonshuttles.com

Transcanyon Shuttle

Provides transportation between the North and South rims. From mid-May to mid-October there is one trip each way daily.

(928) 638-2820

www.trans-canyonshuttle.com



Weather

Current Weather for South Rim Phantom Ranch North Rim



Seasonal Conditions, Temperatures, and Precipitation

Summer

*June through August on the rims
May to September in the canyon.*

Beautiful weather shines on the rims, while brutal heat tortures the inner canyon. The high elevation and low humidity causes dramatic changes in temperatures from day to night; bring a jacket. Frequent thunderstorms in July, August, and early September provide dramatic canyon vistas; stay away from the canyon rim if lightning is present. The excessive heat in the canyon can be dangerous and even fatal to unprepared hikers.

Spring and Fall

April, May, September, and October on the rims. March, April, October, and early November in the canyon. Come prepared for a variety of conditions during these changeable seasons. May and October typically may be dry, but snow on the rims is not unusual. Late April and May potentially feature strong winds on the rims. These can be the best times for hiking in the canyon, making overnight permits harder to obtain for popular camp spots.

Winter

*November through March on the rims
December into February in the canyon.*

While the South Rim remains open year-round, the road to the North Rim closes with the first heavy snowfall. Canyon views may be obscured during passing storms, but the canyon formations highlighted by snow are unforgettable. Entrance fees are not refunded due to weather. South Rim roads are plowed, but temporary closures may occur.

	South Rim			Phantom Ranch			North Rim		
	High	Low	Prec.	High	Low	Prec.	High	Low	Prec.
January	41	18	1.32	56	36	0.68	37	16	3.17
February	45	21	1.55	62	42	0.75	39	18	3.22
March	51	25	1.38	71	48	0.79	44	21	2.65
April	60	32	0.93	82	56	0.47	53	29	1.73
May	70	39	0.66	92	63	0.36	62	34	1.17
June	81	47	0.42	101	72	0.30	73	40	0.86
July	84	54	1.81	106	78	0.84	77	46	1.93
August	82	53	2.25	103	75	1.40	75	45	2.85
September	76	47	1.56	97	69	0.97	69	39	1.99
October	65	36	1.10	84	58	0.65	59	31	1.38
November	52	27	0.94	68	46	0.43	46	24	1.48
December	43	20	1.64	57	37	0.87	40	20	2.83

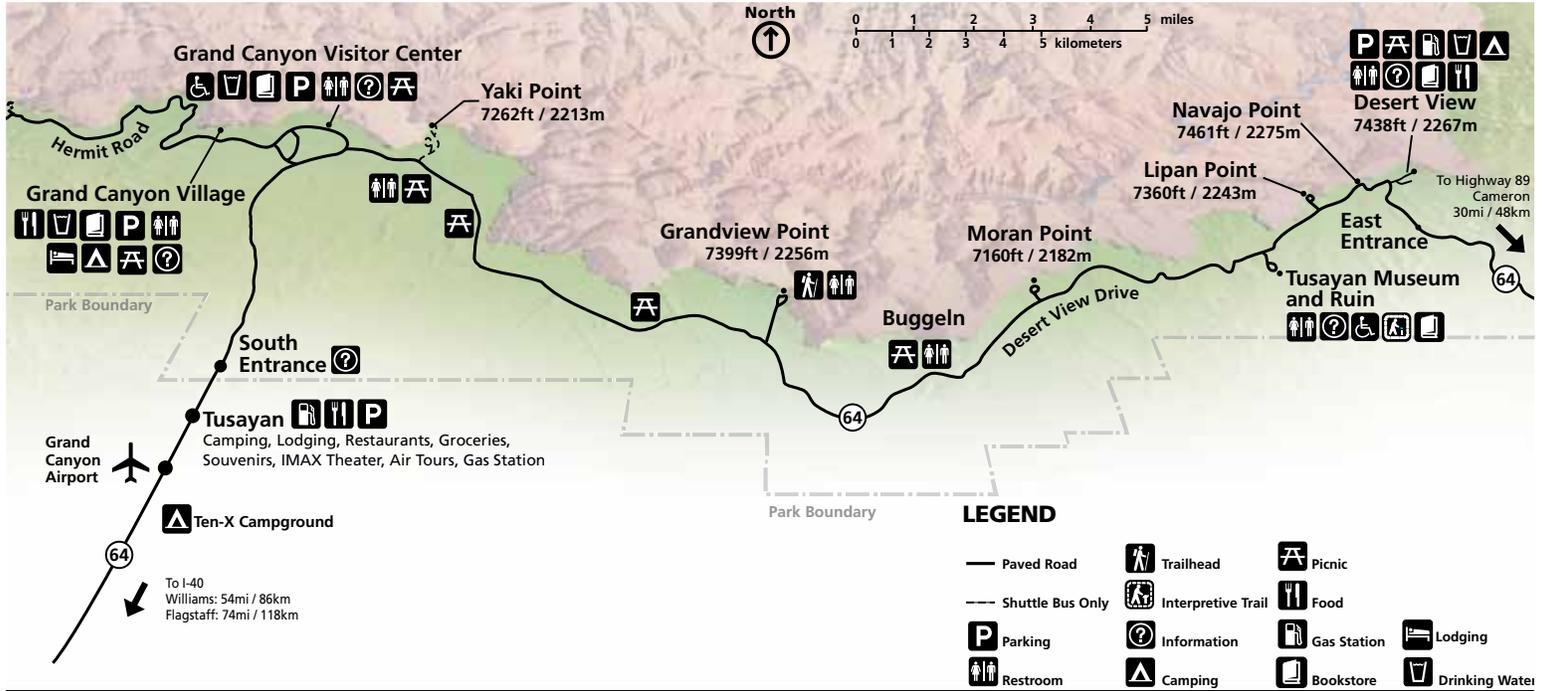
Sunrise and Sunset

Consider admiring a sunset at any point along the canyon's rim. Some viewpoints are more popular than others but a Grand Canyon sunset is inspiring wherever you see it. If you desire a solitary experience, consider waking up early and seeing a sunrise.

A Shocking Experience

Grand Canyon thunderstorms are common in late summer. While bringing much needed water and life to this arid landscape, storms also bring lightning that can be deadly. If a storm approaches, stay away from the canyon rim and move into a vehicle or building.

South Rim



Parking and Shuttle Buses

Grand Canyon's South Rim can be very busy. Parking near Grand Canyon Visitor Center is usually a good choice for most visitors. Parking in the historic Grand Canyon Village can be difficult and time consuming.

Shuttle buses are free and operate like a city bus system. Running clean burning fuel, these buses are an easy way to see many popular points on the South Rim. See *The Guide* for routes, stops, and information.

Shuttle buses are equipped with bicycle racks, wheelchair ramps, and a "kneel" to reduce step. Please note wheelchairs larger than 30 inches (76 cm) wide by 48 inches (121 cm) deep cannot be accommodated on shuttle buses; this includes most motorized scooters.

Viewpoints

Grand Canyon vistas are indescribable. Some are considered more popular than others, but no view of the canyon is a bad view.

Hermit Road: Travel the 7-mile (11 km) Hermit Road. Stop at nine scenic viewpoints and numerous un-named overlooks.

Desert View Drive: Explore along 25 miles (40 km) with views of the Colorado River and Grand Canyon Supergroup. Climb to the top floor of Desert View Watchtower for a 360-degree view.

Colorado River: See portions of the Colorado River from viewpoints along Hermit Road, Desert View Drive, and from Yavapai and Mather points.

Things to do

See the Park Film: This 22-minute introduction film repeats on the hour and half-hour in Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

Attend a Free Park Ranger Program: Daily programs help you discover more about Grand Canyon. See the current list of programs in *The Guide*, South Rim edition.

Go on a Hike: See page 12 for rim and inner canyon day hiking information.

Ride a Bicycle: Journey through the inner forest and along the canyon rim on the Greenway Trail.



South Rim

Information

The National Park Service staffs several visitor centers on the South Rim. All are open every day of the year; hours vary seasonally.

Village Area

Grand Canyon Visitor Center

Plan your visit, and learn about Grand Canyon through the free park film, exhibits, and nearby viewpoints.

Backcountry Information Center

Chat with park rangers to obtain backcountry information and permits.

Kolb Studio

View exhibits in the restored 1904 Kolb brothers' home and photography studio.

Verkamp's Visitor Center

Visit one of the oldest buildings in Grand Canyon Village and discover community history.

Yavapai Geology Museum

Find answers to your questions with 3D maps and exhibits about the geologic story you see through the windows.

Desert View Area

Tusayan Museum and Ruin

Look into the past and present day lives of thriving American Indian communities. Located 3 miles (4.8 km) west of Desert View.

Desert View Visitor Center

Explore how Grand Canyon inspired artists, writers, musicians, and conservationists.

A National Park Service passport cancellation stamp is available at these facilities, except for the Backcountry Information Center. The stamp is also available at Indian Garden, Phantom Ranch, and North Rim.

Camping

In the Park

Mather Campground

Operated by the National Park Service and located near Grand Canyon Village, campsites are \$18 per night. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet (9.1 m). Open year-round; reservations strongly recommended April through October. Operates on a first-come, first-served basis December 1 to March 1. (877) 444-6777
www.recreation.gov

Desert View Campground

Operated by the National Park Service and located 25 miles (40 km) east of Grand Canyon Village. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet (9.1 m). \$12 per site per night. Open from mid-May to mid-October on a first-come, first-served basis; no reservations.

Trailer Village

Operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts. Pull-through sites with hook-ups. Reservations recommended. (888) 297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

Outside the Park, Tusayan, AZ

Camper Village

Commercial campground located one mile (1.6 km) south of park entrance. Hookups, coin-operated showers, laundry, propane, dump station, and store available year round. (928) 638-2887
www.grandcanyoncampervillage.com

Ten-X Campground

Operated by Kaibab National Forest. No hook-ups or showers. Most individual sites first-come, first-served. Some individual and all group sites available by reservation: (877) 444-6777 or www.recreation.gov
Information: (928) 638-2443.

Lodging

In the Park

Reservations should be made well in advance as facilities tend to be full for much of the year. Prices subject to change.

(888) 297-2757

www.grandcanyonlodges.com

Bright Angel Lodge	\$70-178
El Tovar Hotel	\$178-426
Kachina Lodge	\$173-184
Thunderbird Lodge	\$173-184
Maswik Lodge	\$92-173
Yavapai Lodge	\$114-163

Outside the Park, Tusayan, AZ

Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn
(800) 937-8376

www.grandcanyonsquire.com

Canyon Plaza Resort
(800) 995-2521
www.grandcanyonplaza.com

Grand Hotel
(888) 634-7263
www.grandcanyongrandhotel.com

Holiday Inn Express
(888) 473-2269
www.gcanyon.com

Red Feather Lodge
(866) 561-2425
www.redfeatherlodge.com

7 Mile Lodge
(928) 638-2291

Food and Beverage—Offering dining choices to suit your needs. Hours vary seasonally.

Sit Down Restaurants

The Arizona Room
Bright Angel Restaurant
El Tovar Dining Room

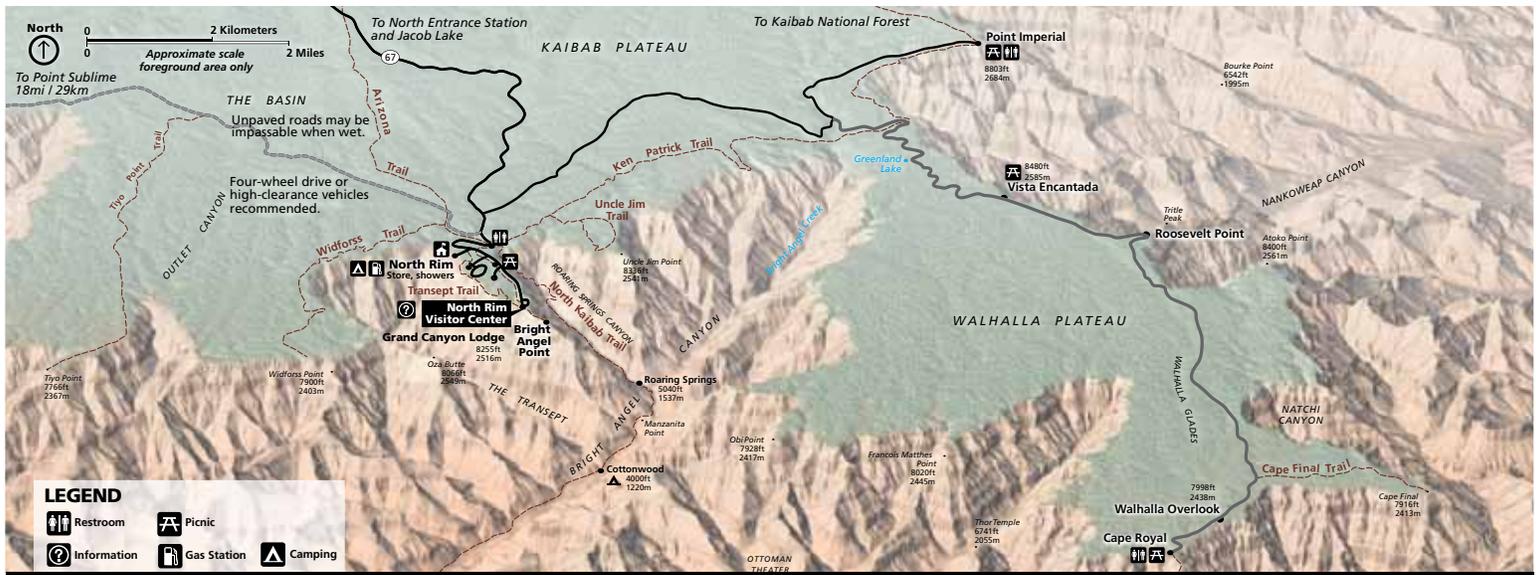
Cafeteria Style Restaurants

Maswik Cafeteria
Yavapai Cafeteria

Other Dining Options

Bright Angel Coffee House
Bright Angel Fountain
Canyon Village Deli
Maswik Pizza Pub
Desert View Snackbar
Hermit's Rest Snack Bar

North Rim



Less visited than the South Rim, the North Rim offers solitude with quiet canyon views. The North Rim is open mid-May until mid-October or depending on snow. For more information see *The Guide*, North Rim edition.

Driving Viewpoints

Point Imperial: Travel 11 miles (18 km) to view Mt. Hayden and Marble Canyon along this beautiful 20-minute, one-way drive from the visitor center.

Cape Royal: Drive 23 miles (37 km) to explore Angels Window and ancestral Puebloan ruins at Walhalla Glades. Allow plenty of time to enjoy this 45-minute, one-way drive from the visitor center.

Things to Do

Attend a Free Park Ranger Program: Daily programs help you discover more about Grand Canyon. See the current list of programs in *The Guide*, North Rim edition.

Enjoy the View: From North Rim Lodge, trails along the rim, or out on the Walhalla Plateau.

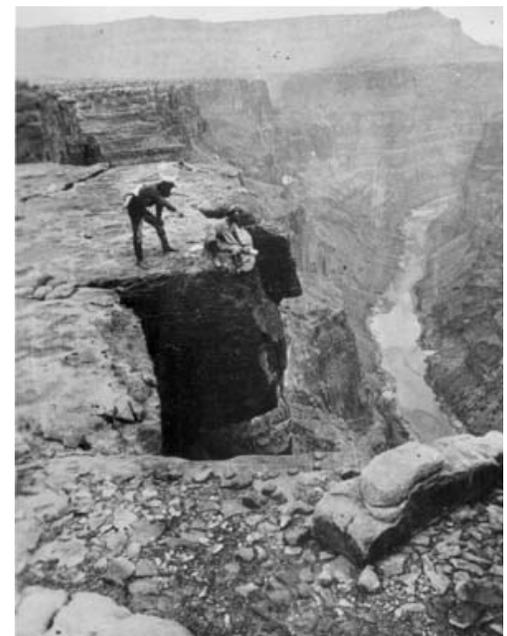
Go on a Hike: See page 12 for rim and inner canyon day hiking information.

Ride a Bicycle: Permitted on all roads unless posted; prohibited on all trails, except the Bridle Trail.

Tuweep/Toroweap

This seldom-visited portion of the park boasts awe-inspiring views, but the 60 miles (97 km) of unpaved road to access from Fredonia, Arizona is rough and dusty with no services.

Visitors should start with a high clearance vehicle, a full tank of gas, and two spare tires. The road ends at Toroweap Overlook; campground, picnic tables, and composting toilets nearby. No water, electricity, or telephone service available at the site.



North Rim

Food and Beverage

In the Park

Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room

Offering a view of the canyon; reservations for dinner recommended.

Deli in the Pines

In the Grand Canyon Lodge complex; open daily.

Roughrider Saloon

In the Grand Canyon Lodge complex; open daily.

Coffee Shop

Located in the Roughrider Saloon; offers coffee, bagels, and baked goods in the morning and light fare, appetizers, and cocktails later in the day.

Grand Canyon Cookout Experience

A Western dining event with live entertainment. Reservations recommended; inquire at the lodge front desk or call: (928) 638-2611
www.grandcanyonforever.com

Camping

In the Park

North Rim Campground

Operated by the National Park Service, campsites are \$18–\$25. No hook-ups; but dump station available. Stays limited to seven days per season. Check campground kiosk for last-minute availability. Reservations: (877) 444-6777
www.recreation.gov.

Outside the Park

DeMotte Campground

U.S. Forest Service campground 16 miles (28 km) north of North Rim. No hookups or reservations. Opens in late-May for the summer months; \$17 per night. Information: (928) 643-7395
www.fs.usda.gov

Jacob Lake Campground

Operated during summer months by the U.S. Forest Service; 45 miles (75 km) north of North Rim. No hook-ups; \$17 per night. Reservations for group site: (877) 444-6777 or www.recreation.gov
Information: (928) 569-2333 or www.fs.usda.gov

Kaibab Camper Village

This commercial campground is located 0.25 mile (0.5 km) south of Jacob Lake on Arizona hwy 67. Open May 15 to October 15; full hook-ups available. (928) 643-7804
(928) 526-0924, during the off-season
(800) 525-0924, outside Arizona
www.kaibabcampervillage.com/

Lodging

In the Park

Grand Canyon Lodge

Check the lodge for same day availability. Make advanced reservations with Forever Resorts; lodging books well in advance. (877) 386-4383
www.grandcanyonforever.com

Outside the Park

Kaibab Lodge

Located 18 miles (30 km) north of North Rim; open mid-May to early November and includes a restaurant and store. Some services may remain open after facilities in the park close for the season. (928) 638-2389
www.kaibablodge.com

Jacob Lake Inn

Located 45 miles (75 km) north of North Rim in Jacob Lake, AZ; open year-round. Includes a restaurant, store, and gas station with pay at pump available 24 hours daily. Propane is available. (928) 643-7232
www.jacoblake.com

North Rim Visitor Center

Start your North Rim adventure at the North Rim Visitor Center; explore exhibits, ask a park ranger questions, and make sure you bring The Guide, North Rim edition with you.

The visitor center features a bookstore operated by the Grand Canyon Association, a non-profit park partner since 1932. Every purchase supports Grand Canyon National Park.



Tours and Trips



Mule Trips

For mule trip information click [here](#).

South Rim

Xanterra Parks & Resorts

6312 S. Fiddlers Green Circle
Suite 600N
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
(303) 297-2757 or (888) 297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

North Rim

Grand Canyon Trail Rides

PO Box 128
Tropic, UT 84776
(435) 679-8665
www.canyonrides.com

Air Tours

Fixed Wing Airplane

Air Grand Canyon
(800) 247-4726
www.airgrandcanyon.com

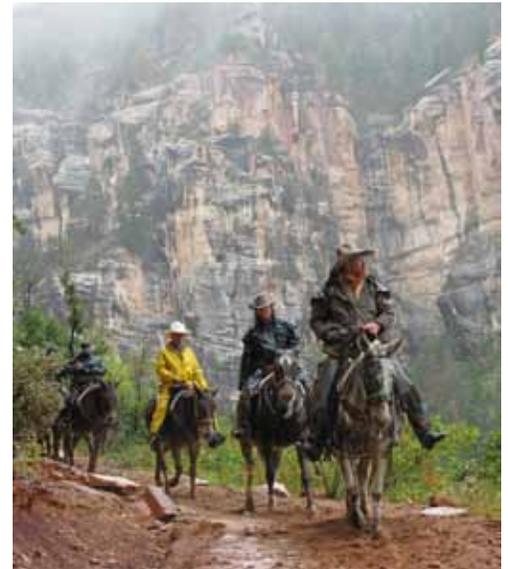
Grand Canyon Airlines
(866) 235-9422
www.grandcanyonairlines.com

Helicopter

Grand Canyon Helicopters
(800) 541-4537
www.grandcanyonhelicoptersaz.com

Maverick Helicopters
(888) 261-4414
www.maverickhelicopter.com

Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters
(888) 635-7272
www.papillon.com



Bus Tours South Rim

Daily park tours to Hermits Rest and Desert View, as well as sunrise and sunset tours available. Tour guides explain history and geology while you relax and enjoy canyon views.



Xanterra Parks and Resorts
6312 S. Fiddlers Green Circle
Suite 600N
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
(303) 297-2757 or (888) 297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

Wheelchair-accessible coaches available by prior arrangement.

Tours and Trips

River Adventures

For many, rafting down the Colorado River through the Southwest canyons becomes the ultimate adventure, a life-changing experience. Several options allow exploring the river on a diversity of time spans and budgets.

1-Day Commercial Trips

Half-day and all-day smooth-water float trips travel 15 river miles (24 km) from Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry, March 1 to November 30.

Colorado River Discovery
(888) 522-6644
www.raftthecanyon.com

2–5 Day Lower Gorge River Trips

Private river trips can float 52 river miles (84 km) from Diamond Creek to Lake Mead. Permits are available starting one year in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. The National Park Service does not assess permit fees for this section of the river, but the Hualapai Tribe charges access fees for crossing their reservation. For information and applications. [Click here.](#)

12–25 Day Trips

Since demand far exceeds supply, non-commercial permits to travel 226 river miles (364 km) from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek are dispensed via a weighted lottery. Each February, the National Park Service conducts a main lottery to assign the majority of launch dates for the next year. Additional follow-up lotteries occur throughout the remainder of the year to re-assign cancelled or left over trips. [Click here for more information.](#)

3–18 Day Commercial Trips

The following companies offer river trips through Grand Canyon, traveling 226 river miles (364 km) from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek. Each company offers a variety of trips lasting three to 18 days in large motorized rafts, oared rafts, paddle rafts, and dories. Contact each company for details.

Aramark-Wilderness River Adventures
(800) 992-8022
www.riveradventures.com

Arizona Raft Adventures
(800) 786-7238
www.azraft.com

Arizona River Runners
(800) 477-7238
www.raftarizona.com

**Canyon Explorations/
Canyon Expeditions**
(800) 654-0723
www.canyonexplorations.com

Canyoneers, Inc.
(800) 525-0924
www.canyoneers.com

Colorado River & Trail Expeditions, Inc.
(800) 253-7328
www.crateinc.com

Grand Canyon Dories
(800) 346-6277
www.oars.com/grandcanyon/dories.html

Grand Canyon Discovery, Inc.
(800) 786-7238
www.grandcanyondiscovery.com

Grand Canyon Expeditions Co.
(800) 544-2691
www.gcex.com

Hatch River Expeditions
(800) 856-8966
www.hatchriverexpeditions.com

Moki Mac River Expeditions
(800) 284-7280
www.mokimac.com

O.A.R.S. Grand Canyon
(800) 346-6277
www.oars.com

Outdoors Unlimited
(800) 637-7238
www.outdoorsunlimited.com

Tour West
(800) 435-9107
www.twriver.com

Western River Expeditions
(866) 904-1160
www.westernriver.com



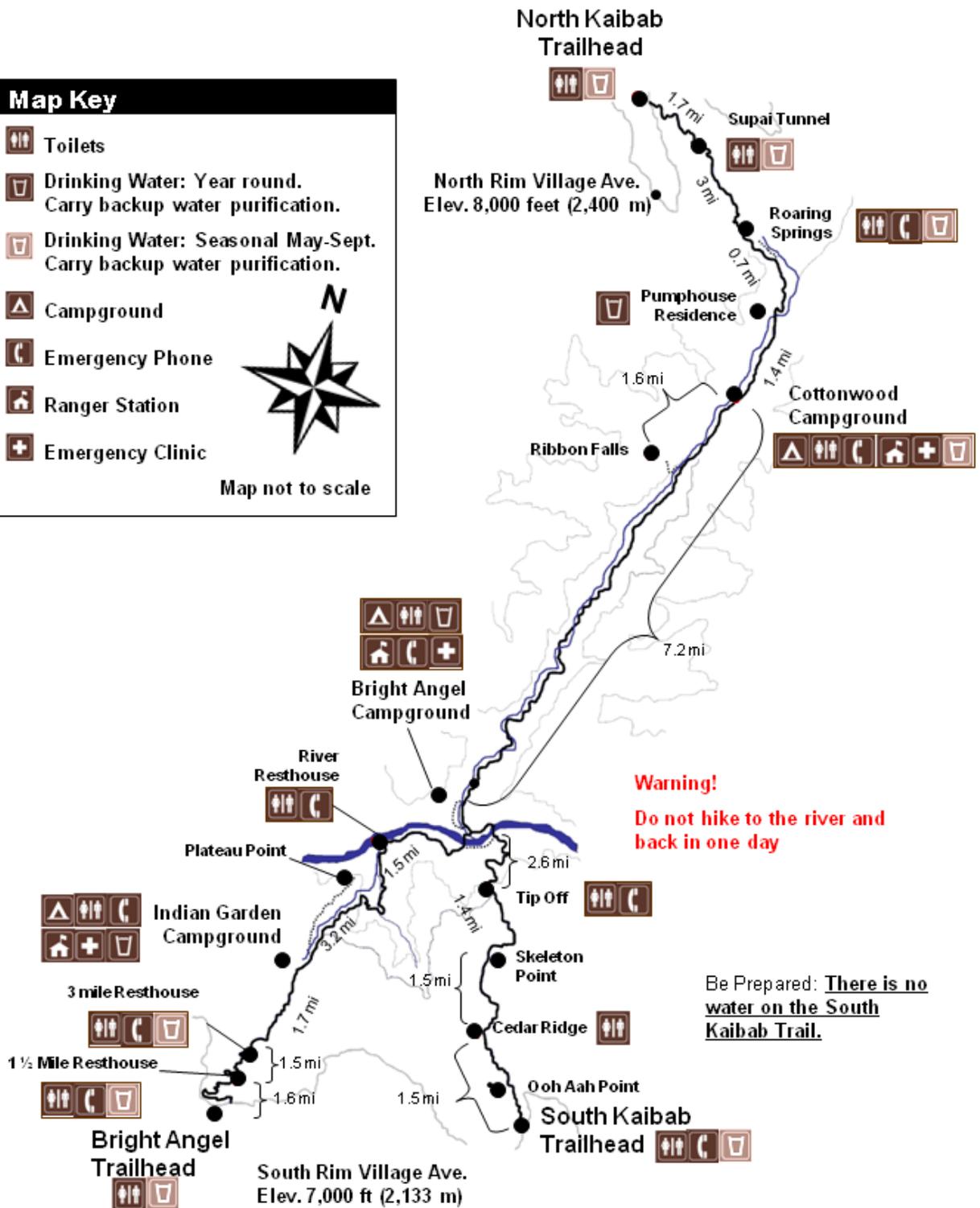
Hiking Map

Hiking the Corridor Trails—Bright Angel, South Kaibab, North Kaibab

Map Key

- Toilets
- Drinking Water: Year round. Carry backup water purification.
- Drinking Water: Seasonal May-Sept. Carry backup water purification.
- Campground
- Emergency Phone
- Ranger Station
- Emergency Clinic

Map not to scale



Warning!
Do not hike to the river and back in one day

Be Prepared: There is no water on the South Kaibab Trail.

Day Hiking

Hiking in Grand Canyon—a life changing experience—creates life-long memories dependent the choices you make. Unprepared hikers suffer extreme consequences, while prepared hikers come back, reliving adventures again and again. See page 13 for hiking tips.

Hiking to the river and back in one day is not advised and dangerous. Summer heat occasionally causes fatalities. In winter, cold temperatures and slippery trails can cause accidents and hypothermia.

If you desire a longer overnight hike see pages 14–15 and contact the Backcountry Information Center for permits.

South Rim

Destination

Round trip distance

Approximate time round trip

Elevation change

Notes

Rim Trail (mostly flat, many sections suitable for wheelchairs)

Easy walks and quiet views. Winds along the rim from Hermits Rest east to the South Kaibab Trailhead. Begin from any viewpoint and use the free shuttle buses to return (March to November).

Follows the rim for 13 miles (21 km)

Your choice

15 minutes to all day

200 feet
60 m

Mostly paved, except dirt from Monument Creek Vista east to Powell Point

Bright Angel Trail (steep, but popular)

The most popular trail into the canyon begins west of Bright Angel Lodge. Upper portion has some afternoon shade. Water available year-round at Indian Garden and Plateau Point (subject to line breaks).

1 ½-Mile Resthouse

3 miles
4.8 km

2–4 hours

1,131 feet
345 m

Restrooms
Water May–October

3-Mile Resthouse

6 miles
9.6 km

4–6 hours

2,112 feet
644 m

Restrooms
Water May–October

Indian Garden

9.2 miles
14.8 km

6–9 hours

3,060 feet
933 m

Restrooms
Water year-round

South Kaibab Trail (steep with expansive views)

Trail begins south of Yaki Point; you must ride the free shuttle bus to the trailhead. Best views for a relatively short hike, but no water. Upper portion of trail subject to strong afternoon sun. Signs identifying turn-around spots may not be in place.

Ooh Aah Point

1.8 miles
2.9 km

1–2 hours

600 feet
180 m

No water
First view east

Cedar Ridge

3 miles
4.8 km

2–4 hours

1,140 feet
347 m

Restrooms
No water

Skeleton Point

6 miles
9.7 km

4–6 hours

2,040 feet
622 m

No water
Second hitching rail

North Rim

Bright Angel Point (rim trail with spectacular views)

A short walk on a paved trail leads to a spectacular view of the canyon. Trail begins at the log shelter in the parking area by the visitor center or at the corner of the back porch behind Grand Canyon Lodge.

Bright Angel Point

0.5 miles
0.8 km

30 minutes

200 feet
60 m

No water.
Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead.

Widforss Trail (rim trail blending forest and canyon scenery)

Even a short walk along this trail can be very satisfying. Take the dirt road 0.25 miles (0.4 km) south of the road to Cape Royal for one mile (1.6 km) to the trailhead.

Widforss Point

10 miles
16 km

6 hours

200 feet
60 m

No water.
Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead.

North Kaibab Trail (steep, forested on upper section)

The trailhead is two miles (3 km) north of Bright Angel Lodge. This steep trail begins in the forest, but descends quickly into the canyon. Mules may be encountered. Trail opening can be delayed by winter damage.

Coconino Overlook

1.4 miles
2.3 km

1–2 hours

800 feet
245 m

No water
Expansive view

Supai Tunnel

4 miles
6.4 km

3–4 hours

1,450 feet
445 m

Seasonal water

Hiking Tips



Hike Smart

Grand Canyon is a place of extremes. Summer heat can become fatal in the inner canyon, while snow and ice can lead to icy circumstances during winter. A hiker's best defense is being prepared for all situations.

5 Strategies for an Enjoyable Hike

1. Always check on weather and trail conditions before starting your hike. Talk with park rangers in the Backcountry Information Center or National Park Service visitor centers.
2. During summer, hike before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. In winter, hiking poles help with balance on icy trails.
3. Double your calories, double your fun. Consume salty snacks and water on any hike lasting longer than 30 minutes. Snack every time you drink.
4. For every hour hiking in the canyon, drink one quart/liter of water.
5. Rest often: sit down, prop your legs up, and take a 5- to 10-minute break once every hour.

Gear

- Dress in layered clothing for snow, rain, sun, wind, heat, and cold.
- Wear and bring sunscreen. Re-apply regularly.
- Wear a hat that covers your ears and carry a headlamp to use in the dark.
- Bring food, water, a map, first aid kit, and any medicine you may need.
- Use over-the-shoe traction devices and hiking poles to assist you in snowy or icy conditions.

Remember:

- It takes twice as long to hike up as it took to hike down.
- **Hiking to the river and back in one day is dangerous and never recommended** due to long distances and a near 5,000 foot (1,524 m) one-way elevation change!
- Persons wishing to take a service dog below the rim must check in first at the Backcountry Information Center.
- Colorado River is fast, wide, and cold (55°F / 13°C). Do not swim in the river.
- Rocks tossed over or dislodged by taking shortcuts can injure hikers below.
- A permit is required to camp in the backcountry. Stop by the Backcountry Information Center to obtain a permit.

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace, a nonprofit organization, promotes responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. All Grand Canyon backcountry users are asked to follow the Leave No Trace principles to minimize impacts on the landscape as a result of their activities. While enjoying your visit, please consider the following to help protect Grand Canyon for future generations.



1. Plan Ahead and Prepare.

- Learn the conditions along the route you plan to hike.
- Know the weather forecast.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.

- Stay on trails; do not cut switchbacks.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is prohibited.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly.

- Bury solid human waste at least 200 feet (60 m) from water in a shallow cat hole 4–6 inches (10–15 cm) deep and 4–6 inches in diameter.
- To wash yourself and dishes, carry water 200 feet (60 m) from the water source.
- Pack out what you bring in, including toilet paper and all trash.

4. Leave What you Find.

Do not disturb any cultural resources including artifacts or other archeological remains.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts.

- No campfires allowed in Grand Canyon National Park backcountry.
- Do not burn toilet paper.

6. Respect Wildlife.

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

Let nature's sound prevail. Keep loud voices and noises to a minimum.

For more information, visit www.LNT.org

Backpacking

Backcountry Information Centers

South Rim

Open daily
8:00 a.m.–noon and 1:00–5:00 p.m.
Year round

Contact

Mail: Backcountry Information Center
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

North Rim

Open daily
8:00 a.m.–noon and 1:00–5:00 p.m.
Mid-May to mid-October or later,
depending on weather

E-mail: grca_bic@nps.gov

Fax: (928) 638-2125

Tel: (928) 638-7875
1:00–5:00 p.m, Monday–Friday

For backcountry information click [here](#)

Do I Need a Permit?

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry use including:

- overnight hiking
- overnight horseback riding
- overnight cross-country ski trips
- off-river overnight hikes by river trip members
- overnight camping at rim sites other than developed campgrounds

Day hiking, day horseback riding, river trips, mule trips, and overnight stays in dormitories or cabins at Phantom Ranch do not need a backcountry permit.

How to Apply

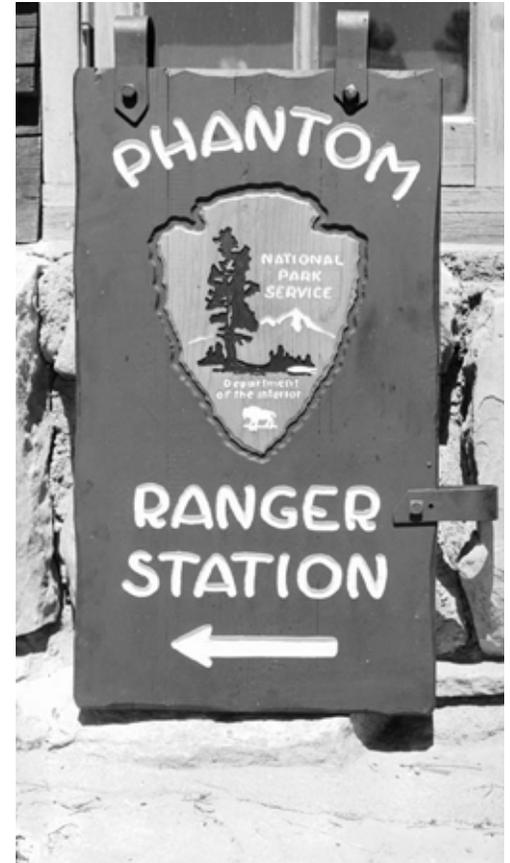
All overnight backcountry permits must be obtained through the Backcountry Information Center. Only fax, mail, or in-person requests will be accepted. Telephone and e-mail requests are not accepted.

Fees

A \$10 non-refundable fee will be charged for each permit issued; plus \$5 per person per night for below the rim camping and \$5 per group per night to camp on the rim.

Backcountry permits do not include park entrance fees and once submitted cannot be refunded. Permits cancelled at least four days in advance will receive a hiker credit (minus a \$10 cancellation fee) valid for one year.

Frequent hiker memberships are available for \$25. The initial \$10 fee will be waived for each permit obtained by the trip leader; membership valid for 12 months from purchase date.



Backpacking

When to Apply

Popular use areas and campsites fill up quickly. Submitting requests on the earliest allowed date is strongly recommended. The Backcountry Information Center accepts permit applications no earlier than the first of the month, four months prior to the proposed start of the trip (see chart below).

For hikes with start dates within: **Submit written request on or after:** **In-person requests receive immediate response on or after:**

January	September 1	October 1
February	October 1	November 1
March	November 1	December 1
April	December 1	January 1
May	January 1	February 1
June	February 1	March 1
July	March 1	April 1
August	April 1	May 1
September	May 1	June 1
October	June 1	July 1
November	July 1	August 1
December	August 1	September 1

Since the Backcountry Information Center needs time to process and mail responses, written requests will not be accepted 21 days before the proposed start date. Only in-person requests will be considered within this time frame.

Permit Responses

All written requests are responded to via U.S. mail only. Please allow at least three weeks for processing. When space is available and all fee requirements are met, a permit will be issued and mailed to the trip leader. If you have been denied a permit through the mail, you may want to consider day hikes or attempt to obtain a last minute, walk-in permit in person at the Backcountry Information Center on either rim as appropriate.



Length of Stay

During spring, summer, and fall, camping in designated campsites or campgrounds is limited to two nights (consecutive or non-consecutive) per hike. From November 15 to February 28, up to four nights will be allowed at Indian Garden, Bright Angel, and Cottonwood campgrounds. Trips are limited to a maximum of seven nights per use area; however, overall trip lengths are not limited.

Group Size

Groups are restricted to 11 or fewer people. More permits are available for small groups (one to six people) than for large groups (seven to 11 people). Limiting the size of your group increases the chances of obtaining a permit. **Do not obtain multiple permits for the same night for the same campground or use area or all permits will be void.**

Use Areas

The backcountry is divided into use areas, ranging from several hundred acres to several thousand acres. Each use area has an overnight capacity based on the size of the area, the number of suitable campsites, the area's ecological sensitivity, its management zoning, and its history. A list of use areas and additional information is posted online [here](#).

Get Involved



Junior Ranger

Grand Canyon National Park and over 250 national parks offer a FREE Junior Ranger Program. At Grand Canyon, people ages four and older are invited to pick up a Junior Ranger Booklet at any National Park Service visitor center. Parents, consider making a great memory and become a Junior Ranger with your child; there is no age limit! Available at Phantom Ranch, South Rim, and North Rim (summer only).

To Participate:

- Attend a free park ranger program.
- Complete four activities for your age group.
- Bring your completed booklet back to any National Park Service visitor center to receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and badge.

Environmental Education

Teachers: Class Trips and Workshops

Park rangers conduct curriculum based programs that support and enhance information learned in the classroom. The program encourages students to explore, experience, and engage in the learning process, while taking place along the rim of Grand Canyon—an inspirational backdrop for learning.

Information:
(928) 638-7931
www.nps.gov/grca/forteachers/



Expeditions for Teens

High school youth from all over the country explore Grand Canyon during hiking, rafting, and camping adventures.

www.nps.gov/grca/forforkids/camp.htm

Expeditions with Grand Canyon Youth

Experience the beauty, adventure, and learning that only a river trip can provide. This program is designed to have a positive impact on youth—an impact that reaches far beyond the time they spend on the river.

www.gcyouth.org

Volunteer

Want to make a difference during your stay? Volunteer at Grand Canyon!

You can help Grand Canyon in a variety of ways, from enhancing visitor services to sharing your specialized expertise to help protect and preserve park resources.

Log on to www.volunteer.gov, to learn about current volunteer opportunities in Grand Canyon National Park.

Vegetation

Work with the National Park Service's Vegetation Program to restore native plant communities and protect the ecological integrity of Grand Canyon National Park. Contact the Vegetation Program Volunteer Coordinator at (928) 638-7753 for information about potential accommodations and upcoming opportunities.

Artist-in-Residence

The Artist-in-Residence Program offers professional artists the opportunity to spend three weeks on either rim in provided housing.

www.nps.gov/grca



Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI)

GCFI offers fun and informative educational classes and tours for everyone—from thrill-seekers to chill-seekers. On day hikes, backpacks, and whitewater rafting trips, GCFI's expert instructors share the must-see wonders of Grand Canyon with park visitors. These courses treat young and old, small groups and solo travelers, to what is often described as the trip-of-a-lifetime!

Information:
(866) 471-4435
www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute



Sustainability

Grand Canyon Proudly Recycles

Throughout the park you will find recycling receptacles. Below is a list of accepted recyclables.

Aluminum—Beverage and food cans; clean aluminum foil.

Cardboard—Please break down boxes.

Chipboard—Packaging or tissue, personal hygiene, dry food, cereal, cake mixes, shoe, gift, and detergent boxes. No frozen food, milk, juice, or produce boxes

Glass—Bottles only; please do not include Pyrex, plate, or auto glass.

Junk Mail and Letters—Includes self-sealing and window envelopes.

Magazines and Catalogs—Glue-bound magazines only. No paperback, hardback, or phone books.

Metal—Food cans (rinse cans), metal lids, empty aerosol cans, galvanized steel. No metal fittings, piping, valves, and sheet metal.

Newspaper and Office Paper—White and colored paper, manila folders, manila envelopes. Shredded paper in clear plastic bags. No thermal fax paper or confetti.

Plastics—All rigid plastics #1 thru #7. These include all soda, detergent, water, and shampoo bottles, milk jugs, plastic food containers, and all lids (remove lids from bottles). No plastic bags or styrofoam.

Place the following items in a trash dumpster: styrofoam or packing peanuts, Pyrex, plate glass or auto glass, waxed cardboard, carbon-paper, large pieces of steel, iron, brass, or copper.

Please put trash in proper receptacles and if full, find an empty one in another location. Cigarette butts are litter too; extinguish and place in trash cans or ashtrays.

Reduce, Reuse, REFILL!

Did you know that Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site? In an effort to reduce litter in this world-class landscape, plastics in the park's waste stream, and greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), the National Park Service and its partners, including the Grand Canyon Association, Delaware North Companies, and Xanterra South Rim, have developed a reusable water bottle program.

We have filling stations! Filling stations that provide fresh Grand Canyon spring water are now available throughout the park:

South Rim

- Hermits Rest
- Bright Angel Trailhead
- South Kaibab Trailhead
- Canyon Village Market
- Desert View Market
- Verkamp's Visitor Center
- Grand Canyon Visitor Center
- Yavapai Geology Museum
- Desert View Visitor Center
- Maswick Lodge

North Rim

- Visitor Center
- Administration & Backcountry Office
- North Kaibab Trailhead

Fill 'er up! What can you do to help? Bring or buy a reusable water bottle and fill it up for free. You can purchase reusable, souvenir water bottles at all park retailers.

Why refill? When you refill your bottle you:

- Enjoy fresh Grand Canyon spring water.
- Reduce litter within the park, plastics in the waste stream, and GHGs.
- Save money—Grand Canyon spring water is FREE!
- Help save our environment!



Beyond The Rims



U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Kaibab National Forest.

Kaibab National Forest—Surrounding both South and North Rims, discover unique experiences in National forests. www.fs.usda.gov/main/kaibab/home

South Rim

Tusayan Ranger District
176 Lincoln Log Loop
PO Box 3088
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023
(928) 638-2443

North Rim

North Kaibab Ranger District
430 South Main Street
PO Box 248
Fredonia, Arizona 86022
(928) 643-7395

Havasupai Indian Reservation

The Havasupai Tribe lives in a large tributary canyon on the south side of the Colorado River approximately 190 miles (310 km) west of Grand Canyon Village. The reservation lies outside the boundaries of the park and is administered by the Tribe. The Village of Supai is accessible only by an 8-mile (13-km) hike or horse ride.

To obtain a hiking permit or make reservations at the lodge at Supai:
(928) 448-2121 Tourist Office
(928) 441-2111 Lodging
www.havasupai-nsn.gov



The Skywalk at Grand Canyon West

Not located in Grand Canyon National Park, this glass walkway protruding over the rim is on the Hualapai Indian Reservation; located at the west end of Grand Canyon approximately 250 miles (400 km) from the South Rim or 90 miles (145 km) from Las Vegas, Nevada. Stop by any National Park Service visitor center for information.

The Skywalk is a Hualapai Tribal business. For information or to make reservations:
(888)-868-9378 or (928)-769-2636
www.grandcanyonwest.com



Photo courtesy Hualapai Tourism

Park Partners



Xanterra Parks & Resorts® provides South Rim lodging, dining, transportation services, shops, and operates the Grand Canyon Railway. Award-winning sustainability efforts include:

- Won the NPS Environmental Achievement Award for numerous sustainability initiatives and progress toward federal environmental targets.
- Implemented a LEED Gold renovation at Bright Angel Lodge, with waterless urinals, dual flush toilets, ultra low-flow faucets, super efficient hand dryers, occupancy sensors, and a renewable energy system for sensor faucets. Installed efficient HVAC system and new skylights in gift shop.
- Replaced diesel buses with nine efficient CNG full-sized tour buses.
- Purchased 23.81% of food and beverages locally or sustainably produced.
- Powered the Grand Canyon Railway steam locomotive with 100% waste vegetable oil, collected from South Rim restaurants.
- Replaced individual 1oz bottles with bulk bathroom amenities in most guest rooms.
- Tracked number of disposable bottles eliminated by water filling station in Maswik Lodge Cafeteria.



Delaware North Companies (DNC) provides markets at the South Rim and Desert View and is a key partner in environmental stewardship at Grand Canyon.

- Won the NPS Environmental Achievement Award (2010) for a green interior remodeling of Canyon Village Market at Market Plaza.
- Installed water bottle filling stations in Desert View and Canyon Village markets.
- Used an Environmental Management System, GreenPath®, to guide environmental operations. DNC is an international ISO 14001 standard certified organization.
- Offered organic groceries, earth-friendly cleaning supplies, and gifts made from organic material and recycled content. The Deli disposable cups, utensils, and containers are 85% compostable.



Forever Resorts operates Grand Canyon Lodge, shops, and restaurants on the North Rim. Their award-winning Forever Earth™ Environmental Management System is certified to ISO 14001:2004 and provides sustainable operations guidance.

- Increased solid waste diversion rate to nearly 100% through an extensive recycling program. Sent only a small amount of waste to a landfill and used only one dumpster.
- Used an organic composter to digest restaurant food waste into an organic, odor-free liquid that safely travels through the waste system. Composted more than 19,000 pounds last year, reducing 15,827 pounds of greenhouse gas.
- Recycled plastic and glass containers with a reverse vending machine that rewards the environmentalist with a General Store coupon credit.
- Practiced green purchasing throughout operations, including retail and gift items, cleaning and maintenance supplies, food, and beverages. Purchased organic, locally, regionally, and repurposed items whenever available to support the local economy.



GRAND CANYON ASSOCIATION

INSPIRE. EDUCATE. PROTECT.

You can make a difference at Grand Canyon National Park!

With your help, the Grand Canyon Association (GCA) supports an impressive variety of projects and programs that help ensure that all visitors are able to enjoy the awe-inspiring wonder of Grand Canyon.

GCA cooperates with the National Park Service to fund new exhibits, scientific research, trail restoration, wildlife monitoring, ecological restoration, support for the arts, and historic building preservation.

On the South Rim, GCA operates bookstores in Desert View Visitor Center, Tusayan Museum, Yavapai Geology Museum, Verkamp's Visitor Center, Kolb Studio, and their main store, Books and More, across from Grand Canyon Visitor Center. Purchases of educational and enjoyable gifts benefit Grand Canyon National Park.

Want to do something grand? Grand Canyon Field Institute offers 100+ classes annually that vary from a few hours of personal interpretation to multi-day guided trips into the canyon.

Teachers can benefit from GCA's outreach program, including educational Travelin' Trunks and DVDs for loan.

How Can I get involved?

Join the Grand Canyon Association today. Members receive exclusive benefits and discounts. For more information visit a GCA bookstore, call toll-free (800) 858-2808 or www.grandcanyon.org.